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APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION LETTERS



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
410/573-4575



June 12, 2008

Elizabeth Estes
Greenhorne & O'Mara
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

*RE: GSA proposing to relocate a portion of the SSA Headquarters Operations at the Metrowest Facility: Site A 6100 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore
Site B 2600 Liberty Heights Avenue Baltimore*

Dear Elizabeth Estes:

This responds to your letter, received May 28, 2008, requesting information on the presence of species which are federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened within the vicinity of the above reference project area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Except for occasional transient individuals, no federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. For information on the presence of other rare species, you should contact Lori Byrne of the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division at (410) 260-8573.

An additional concern of the Service is wetlands protection. Federal and state partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program have adopted an interim goal of no overall net loss of the Basin's remaining wetlands, and the long term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Basin's wetlands resource base. Because of this policy and the functions and values wetlands perform, the Service recommends avoiding wetland impacts. All wetlands within the project area should be identified, and if construction in wetlands is proposed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, should be contacted for permit requirements. They can be reached at (410) 962-3670.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interests in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Devin Ray at (410) 573-4531.

Sincerely,

Mary Ratnaswamy

Mary J. Ratnaswamy, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor, Threatened and Endangered Species



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Eric Schwaab, Deputy Secretary

July 8, 2008

Ms. Elizabeth Estes
Greenhorne & O' Mara
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

RE: Environmental Review for Proposed Campus Expansion to Support The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Consolidation at the Federal Research Center (FRC) at White Oak, Silver Spring, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland.

Dear Ms. Estes:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no State or Federal records for rare, threatened or endangered species within the boundaries of the project site as delineated. As a result, we have no specific comments or requirements pertaining to protection measures at this time. This statement should not be interpreted however as meaning that rare, threatened or endangered species are not in fact present. If appropriate habitat is available, certain species could be present without documentation because adequate surveys have not been conducted. It is also important to note that the utilization of state funds, or the need to obtain a state authorized permit may warrant additional evaluations that could lead to protection or survey recommendations by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. If this project falls into one of these categories, please contact us for further coordination.

We would like to bring to your attention that there is a remnant magnolia bog called "Powder Mill Bog" just off to the southeast of the project site, that is known to support several plant species listed as rare or endangered at the State level. Any activities on the project site that have potential to impact the hydrology of this nearby bog habitat should be avoided.

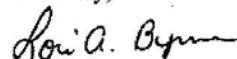
In addition, our analysis of the information provided also suggests that the forested area on the project site contains Forest Interior Dwelling Bird habitat. Populations of many Forest Interior Dwelling Bird species (FIDS) are declining in Maryland and throughout the eastern United States. The conservation of FIDS habitat is strongly encouraged by the Department of Natural Resources. In order to do so, the following guidelines could be incorporated into the site design to help minimize the project's impacts on FIDS and other native forest plants and wildlife:

1. Restrict development to nonforested areas.
2. If forest loss or disturbance is unavoidable, concentrate or restrict development to the following areas:
 - a. the perimeter of the forest (i.e., within 300 feet of existing forest edge)
 - b. thin strips of upland forest less than 300 feet wide

- c. small, isolated forests less than 50 acres in size
- d. portions of the forest with low quality FIDS habitat, (i.e., areas that are already heavily fragmented, relatively young, exhibit low structural diversity, etc.)
- 3. Maximize the amount of forest "interior" (forest area >300 feet from the forest edge) within each forest tract (i.e., minimize the forest edge:area ratio). Circular forest tracts are ideal and square tracts are better than rectangular or long, linear forests.
- 4. Minimize forest isolation. Generally, forests that are adjacent, close to, or connected to other forests provide higher quality FIDS habitat than more isolated forests.
- 5. Limit forest removal to the "footprint" of houses and to that which is necessary for the placement of roads and driveways.
- 6. Minimize the number and length of driveways and roads.
- 7. Roads and driveways should be as narrow and as short as possible; preferably less than 25 and 15 feet, respectively
- 8. Maintain forest canopy closure over roads and driveways.
- 9. Maintain forest habitat up to the edges of roads and driveways; do not create or maintain mowed grassy berms.
- 10. Maintain or create wildlife corridors.
- 11. Do not remove or disturb forest habitat during April-August, the breeding season for most FIDS. This seasonal restriction may be expanded to February-August if certain early nesting FIDS (e.g., Barred Owl) are present.
- 12. Landscape homes with native trees, shrubs and other plants and/or encourage homeowners to do so.
- 13. Encourage homeowners to keep pet cats indoors or, if taken outside, kept on a leash or inside a fenced area.
- 14. In forested areas reserved from development, promote the development of a diverse forest understory by removing livestock from forested areas and controlling white-tailed deer populations. Do not mow the forest understory or remove woody debris and snags.
- 15. Afforestation efforts should target a) riparian or streamside areas that lack woody vegetative buffers, b) forested riparian areas less than 300 feet wide, and c) gaps or peninsulas of nonforested habitat within or adjacent to existing FIDS habitat.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Byrne
Environmental Review Coordinator
Wildlife and Heritage Service
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER # 2008.1119.mo/pg
Cc: K. McCarthy, DNR
D. Brinker, DNR



*Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust*

*Martin O'Malley
Governor*

*Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor*

*Richard Eberhart Hall
Secretary*

*Matthew J. Power
Deputy Secretary*

July 22, 2008

Ms. Maryann S. Dobbins
Regional Historic Preservation Officer
Public Buildings Service
U.S. General Services Administration
The Strawbridge's Building
20 North Eighth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3191

Re: U.S. Social Security Administration
Lease Construction Project
Baltimore, Maryland
Section 106 Review

Dear Ms. Dobbins:

Thank you for your recent letter, dated 10 July 2008 and received by the Maryland Historical Trust (Trust) on 11 July 2008, regarding the above-referenced project. GSA's correspondence initiated consultation with the Trust pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. We offer the following comments.

According to your letter, we understand that the undertaking entails leasing a facility and parking to house the Social Security Administration (SSA) in Baltimore, Maryland and vacating SSA's current facility in a non-historic building located at 300 N. Greene Street, Baltimore. Based on the information presented in your letter, the Trust concurs with GSA's delineation of the project's Area of Potential Effect for archeological and architectural resources for the two Alternative Sites A and B presently under consideration. We also agree with GSA's proposed level of effort to identify historic and archeological properties that may be affected by this project. We look forward to further consultation with GSA and any other involved parties to successfully complete the Section 106 consultation for this undertaking.

If you have questions or require further assistance, please contact me at 410-514-7631 or bcole@mdp.state.md.us. Thank you for providing us this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Cole
Administrator, Project Review and Compliance

EJC/200802232

cc: Kathleen Kotarba (CHAP)

APPENDIX B – PUBLIC SCOPING WRITTEN COMMENTS



Baltimore City Community College



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LIBERTY CAMPUS
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 EDUCATION CENTER
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 Baltimore, MD 21202-4047

REISTERSTOWN
 PLAZA CENTER
 6764A Reisterstown Road
 Baltimore, MD 21215-2306

June 23, 2008

Ms. Courtenay Hoememann
 General Services Administration
 The Strawbridge Building
 20 North Eighth Street, 8th Floor
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

RE: Proposed Relocation of the Social Security Administration
 Headquarters from the Metro West Facility, 300 N. Greene Street,
 Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Ms. Hoememann:

Please consider these written comments and materials, from Baltimore City Community College (BCCC or the College) as part of the Environmental Assessment of the proposed relocation of the Social Security Administration (SSA) headquarters to the Bon Secours Liberty Village site, located at 2600 Liberty Heights Avenue. For the reasons below, the College urges the GSA to locate this project at the alternative site on Wabash Avenue.

BCCC Liberty Campus, located at 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue, occupies a land-locked site across from Bon Secours Liberty Village, and seeks to expand its campus through acquisition of the Bon Secours property.

The College's vision for the Bon Secours site includes:

- Parking garage that would add 1100 spaces to the College's existing 400 spaces and achieve the established need for 1500 spaces;
- New bookstore and café which would serve the community as well as the College;
- Fine and Performing Arts Building hosting community productions and College performances;
- Information Technology Center, which would include an additional computer lab open to the public and
- Pedestrian Walkway bridging Liberty Heights and acting as a gateway to the College campus.

Ms. Courtenay Hoememann
June 23, 2008
Page 2

Melding of the existing Liberty Campus with the Bon Secours site would create a vibrant learning community that would not only meet the College's physical needs, but also address the surrounding community's expanding social and educational needs.

BCCC's mission is to provide outstanding educational, cultural, and social experiences to the residents of Baltimore City, the state of Maryland, and surrounding areas. Founded in 1947, the College is a state-sponsored institution enrolling more than 19,000 credit and non-credit students each year. BCCC enrolls more Baltimore City residents as undergraduates than any other Maryland college or university; in fact, BCCC enrolls 31% of all Baltimore City residents currently enrolled as undergraduates in Maryland.

The College's accessible, affordable, comprehensive programs include college transfer and career preparation, technical training, and life skills training. BCCC is a dynamic higher education institution that is responsive to the changing needs of its stakeholders: individuals, businesses, government, and educational institutions of the community at large. As the attached brochure highlights, the College provides a significant return on the investment made by State funding and student tuition by enriching the lives of its students, increasing their lifetime income and ultimately helping to grow the tax revenues in its service area.

For all these reasons, BCCC's expanded presence in the Liberty Heights corridor would serve as a strong educational, cultural and social anchor for the College's surrounding neighborhoods and other Northwest Baltimore communities. BCCC urges that the GSA select the Wabash Avenue site for the relocation of the SSA headquarters.

Sincerely,



Carolane Williams, Ph.D.
President

CW/dfs

Attachment (1)

Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Meeting
Social Security Administration Metro West Relocation
Baltimore, Maryland

Comment Sheet and Questionnaire

Name: Catherine Pugh
Address: 3603 Denslyn Rd
Baltimore MD 21215
Affiliation: State Senator
Phone: _____

Do you know of any environmental issues that would arise from this action?

Do you know of any special interest groups that would be affected by this action?

The groups (neighborhood associations) in
Mondawmin were present.

Would you like to receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment for this action when it becomes available? NOTE: Paper copies will be available at local libraries and at GSA.



Yes



No

Good presentation.
Thank you for coming.

More on back



General Services Administration
Mid Atlantic Region

Please provide additional comments on the Social Security Administration Metro West Relocation:

We hope you carefully consider
our area.

I believe design of the building
will make all the difference
to community.

Please send comments to:

U.S. General Services Administration
Attention: Courtenay Hoernemann

20 North 8th Street, Eighth Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Phone: (215) 446-4710
Courtenay.Hoernemann@gsa.gov



General Services Administration
Mid Atlantic Region

Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Meeting
Social Security Administration Metro West Relocation
Baltimore, Maryland

Comment Sheet and Questionnaire

Name: Andrea Johnson
Address: 3908 Brookhill Rd
Belts MD 21215
Affiliation: Fallstaff Improvement Association Inc.
Phone: 410-764-8529 or 410-358-4140

Do you know of any environmental issues that would arise from this action? Wabash
Possible traffic impact due to
increased traffic from SSA &
other projects moving to the
area in the same time frame (New
Palmer Church)

Do you know of any special interest groups that would be affected by this action?

1) For the sake of the public and the
employees you should consider subsidizing
100% of the cost of transportation for the use of
the subway, light rail and buses to reduce
the impact of traffic on the surrounding area at Wabash.

Would you like to receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment for this action when it becomes available? NOTE: Paper copies will be available at local libraries and at GSA.

☐ Yes

☒ No

More on back



General Services Administration
Mid Atlantic Region

Please provide additional comments on the Social Security Administration Metro West Relocation:

the subway runs from downtown to Orange
Nells and the light rail runs within
2 miles or less of Wabash at Mt Washington.

2) If the Wabash site is selected, SSA/GSA
and or Maryland Transportation Dept, transportation
should erect an overhead connection
between Patterson and the Peristation
Rd Plaza to carry people between
the metro center and the Plaza
without having to cross Patterson
Ave. against traffic.

Please send comments to:

U.S. General Services Administration

Attention: Courtenay Hoernemann

20 North 8th Street, Eighth Floor

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Phone: (215) 446-4710

Courtenay.Hoernemann@gsa.gov



General Services Administration
Mid Atlantic Region

**Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Meeting
Social Security Administration Metro West Relocation
Baltimore, Maryland**

Comment Sheet and Questionnaire

Name: Mrs. Myra V. Sullivan
Address: 3201 Burleigh Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21215
Affiliation: Parkway Community
Phone: _____

Do you know of any environmental issues that would arise from this action?

Parking,

Do you know of any special interest groups that would be affected by this action?

No

Would you like to receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment for this action when it becomes available? NOTE: Paper copies will be available at local libraries and at GSA.



Yes



No

More on back



General Services Administration
Mid Atlantic Region

Please provide additional comments on the Social Security Administration Metro West Relocation:

There's always going to be pros and cons with any Arguments. Revenue (shopping, eating places) and jobs is great. More traffic problems have to be carefully studied. My biggest concern is lack of parking for Baltimore City Community College. If the SSA relocation is decided upon for the SSA relocation, is that fair to the neighborhoods already stressed with student parking? Dapertin Heights is stressed with commuter traffic and student parking. Will there be any space left for space to consider in the future for expansion, i.e., parking or student facilities?

Growth is good, but let's consider existing structures in the area that may want to expand before bringing in something new.

Please send comments to:

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